

Nevada Department of Agriculture News Release

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**For Immediate Release
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Mormon Crickets Start Hatching Again

April 8, 2005 Reno – Drought conditions in Nevada over the last several years have allowed Mormon cricket eggs, laid in the previous season, to survive in spite of lower temperatures and increased precipitation during the 2005 winter season. Mormon crickets began hatching several weeks ago in Northern Nevada. The stretch of cool weather we received the last week of March and the first week of April delayed further hatching until this week.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDOA), through surveillance and reporting, has determined that the Mormon cricket numbers are as high if not higher than last year at this time.

Affected areas include the north valleys around Reno, Pyramid Lake, Orovada, Winnemucca, Battle Mountain, Beowawe, Pine Valley, Austin, Eureka and Elko. Some of the affected areas have already been treated with carbaryl bait by NDOA staff.

In 2003, NDOA aially sprayed 72,000 acres for Mormon crickets, 250,000 acres in 2004. NDOA expects to aially spray 400,000 acres divided between the infested areas. Jeff Knight, State Entomologist said, "We anticipate being able to spray all the areas in a timely fashion." "We want to keep the crickets out of town, off the highways, and away from production fields," Knight added.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the USDA- Plant Protection and Quarantine and the Bureau of Land Management, will begin their spray programs next week. The first areas to be sprayed will be in the Winnemucca and Orovada area. Initially, a total of about 120,000 acres will be sprayed with Dimilin. Dimilin is an insect growth regulator that causes the crickets to die as they grow and molt.

Anyone finding Mormon crickets is encouraged to report them to the Nevada Department of Agriculture either the Winnemucca office at 775 623-6502 or to the Reno office at 775 688-1182 ext. 278. The Nevada Department of Agriculture also has publications available on Mormon crickets.